

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-25 will remain in the application.

Specification

The specification has been amended to obviate the rejections to the specification.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 2, 8, 18, and 22 of co-owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/753,086.

A terminal disclaimer is being filed to traverse the rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Rochberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,984) in view of Attanasio et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,866, hereinafter "Attanasio").

The Action states that Rochberger teaches transmitting a group membership file including information indicative of client memberships in two or more groups, citing col. 3, lines 15-23.

However, it is clear from Figure 1 and associated text that each of the nodes only belongs to one peer group. The Hello messages sent by nodes to their neighbors only include their own peer group membership. Accordingly, Rochberger does not teach or suggest receiving or transmitting a "group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers" because the Hello messages don't indicate memberships in two or more groups. Furthermore, the Hello messages are sent by each node to its neighbors, and hence cannot be considered received or transmitted from a "host" as claimed.

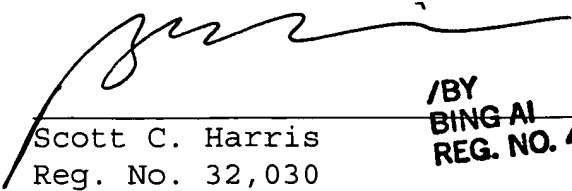
The Action concedes that Rochberger doesn't explicitly suggest associating expiration indicators with group identifiers, citing Attanasio to account for this deficiency. However, Attanasio doesn't teach transmitting a group membership file including group identifiers corresponding to different groups, and hence Attanasio cannot make up for this deficiency in the primary reference.

Neither Rochberger nor Attanasio teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, receiving or transmitting a "group membership file including a plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, a corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers. Accordingly, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 8, 15, 19, and 23, and their dependencies, are allowable.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account no.
06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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